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County tax measure to addresss homeless services

1 message

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Greetings security committee,

At our meeting last week, I reviewed for you the efforts underway by the city and the county to identify new sources of revenue to make a meaningful impact on the county's homeless crisis. This has been long awaited and is essential if we are not going to continue to see an uptick in people living on the streets. As I shared with you, city funds will be put toward building and renovating permanent supportive housing and very low income housing – and a \$1.2B general obligation bond measure will appear on the November city ballot. At the two BID board meetings in September, we will ask the boards if they want to publically support this measure.

The county measure – which is intended to fill a \$450M annual service gap – has been more difficult for the board of supervisors to gain consensus on. (County funds will largely be geared toward services – e.g., mental health, health, criminal justice diversion, case management.) The marijuana tax that was proposed has been pulled back.

I had mentioned to you that the board of supervisors would have until Aug 9 to try to get a measure on the November ballot – otherwise they will likely shoot for the March ballot. You asked if I could provide a template of a letter that could be drafted (on your own) to urge your supervisor to find a way to place a measure on the November ballot.

After reading this story yesterday in the Times, it appears they are resigned to waiting for March, given the current make-up of the board. Wanted to pass this along to you to keep you current. Thank you for your interest – and good discussion.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-tom-steyer-skid-row-20160802-snap-story.html>

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